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FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1794.

Whitehall, January 15, 1794.

CAPTAIN Hill, Aide de Camp to Major-General Dundas, arrived, on the 13th Inſtant, at the Office of the Right Honorable Henry Dundas, His Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, with Diſpatches from Vice-Admiral Lord Hood and the Major-General, of which the following are Copies and Extracts.

Victory, Toulon Road, December 13, 1793.

SIR,

NOthing very material has happened here ſince the 30th of laſt Month, when I had the Honour of writing to you, except that the Enemy has made Approaches nearer to us by ſome new-erected Batteries; one againſt Malbouſquet, another againſt Le Brun, and a third againſt the Hauteur de Graſſe. The Shells from Two of them did us ſome Miſchief on the 9th and 10th, ſince which they have been perfectly ſilent.

The Enemy is reported to be 50,000, but I cannot credit their being much beyond Half that Number. By various Deſerters that have come in, which in this Reſpect perfectly agree, we are ſoon to be attacked on all Sides at once. From the numerous and important Poſts we have to occupy the Troops are at very hard Duty, and without Relief ſome Way or other, we ſhall ſoon have more Men in the Hoſpital than are fit for Service.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

HOOD.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.

Toulon, December 12, 1793.

SIR,

SINCE the Affair of the 30th Ult. no conſiderable Event has taken Place. By the repeated Accounts of Deſerters the Enemy are very much increaſed in Numbers: None ſtate them lower than 30 or 40,000 Men.

They have fired of late little from the Battery we were in Poſſeſſion of. Four of it's Guns were certainly diſabled. They have increaſed the Number of their Mortars, which have much annoyed our Two Poſts of Cape Brun and Fort Mulgrave, on the Heights of Balaguier. We have loſt ſome Men at each, from the Effect of Shells, which, in ſuch temporary expoſed Situations, cannot be ſufficiently guarded from. Againſt each of theſe Poſts they have opened a new Battery of Cannon and Mortars, but at the other Points they have worked little. We continue ſtrengthening our Poſition, though we cannot expect to give it any much more ſubſtantial Form.

We have in all near 11,000 Men bearing Muſquets, and 4000 Sick. Deſerters all report the Intention of a ſpeedy general Attack.

This will be delivered by Captain Hill, a very deſerving young Man, who has been Aide de Camp to Lord Mulgrave, Lieutenant General O'Hara, and myſelf. The Opportunity of his Departure is ſudden, and therefore I am to beg you will excuſe the Shortneſs of this Letter.

I am, &c.

DAVID DUNDAS.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.

Whitehall, January 15, 1794.

THIS Morning Sir Sydney Smith and Major Moncrief arrived at the Office of the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, His Majeſty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department, with Diſpatches

patches from Vice-Admiral Lord Hood and Major-General David Dundas, of which the following are Copies and Extracts.

Victory, Hières Bay, December 20, 1793.

IT is my Duty to acquaint you, that I have been obliged to evacuate Toulon, and to retire from the Harbour to this Anchorage.

It became unavoidably neceſſary that the Retreat ſhould not be deferred beyond that Night, as the Enemy commanded the Town and Ships by their Shot and Shells; I therefore, agreeable to the Governor's Plan, directed the Boats of the Fleet to aſſemble by Eleven o'Clock, near Fort la Malgue, and am happy to ſay the Whole of the Troops were brought off to the Number of near 8,000, without the Loſs of a Man; and in the Execution of this Service I have infinite Pleaſure in acknowledging my very great Obligations to Captain Elphinſtone for his unremitting Zeal and Exertion, who ſaw the laſt Man off; and it is a very comfortable Satisfaction to me that ſeveral Thouſands of the meritorious Inhabitants of Toulon were ſheltered in His Majeſty's Ships.

I propoſe ſending the Vice-Admirals Hotham and Coſby, with ſome other Ships, to Leghorn or Porto Ferrara, to complete their Wine and Proviſions, which run very ſhort, having many Mouths to feed, and to remain with the Reſt to block up the Ports of Toulon and Marſeilles. Circumſtances which had taken Place made the Retreat abſolutely neceſſary to be effected as ſoon as poſſible, and prevented the Execution of a ſettled Arrangement for deſtroying the French Ships and Arſenal. I ordered the Vulcan Fireſhip to be primed, and Sir Sydney Smith, who joined me from Smyrna about a Fortnight ago, having offered his Services to burn the Ships, I put Captain Hare under his Orders, with the Lieutenants Tupper and Gore, of the Victory, Lieutenant Pater, of the Britannia, and Lieutenant R. W. Miller, of the Windſor Caſtle. Ten of the Enemy's Ships of the Line in the Arſenal, with the Maſt-Houſe, Great Store-Houſe, Hemp-Houſe, and other Buildings, were totally deſtroyed, and before Day-Light all His Majeſty's Ships, with thoſe of Spain and the Two Sicilies, were out of the Reach of the Enemy's Shot and Shells, except the Robuſt, which was to receive Captain Elphinſtone, and ſhe followed very ſoon after, without a Shot ſtriking her. I have under my Orders Rear-Admiral Trogoff, in the Commerce de Marſeilles, Puiſſant and Pompée, of the Line, the Pearl, Arethuſa and Topaze Frigates, and ſeveral large Corvettes, which I have manned, and employed in collecting Wine and Proviſions from the different Ports in Spain and Italy, having been conſtantly in Want of one Species or another, and am now at ſhort Allowance.

Don Langara undertook to deſtroy the Ships in the Baſon, but, I am informed, found it not practicable; and as the Spaniſh Troops had the guarding the Powder Veſſels, which contained the Powder of the Ships I ordered into the Baſon and Arſenal on my coming here, as well as that from the diſtant Magazines, within the Enemy's Reach, I requeſted the Spaniſh Admiral would be pleaſed to give Orders for their being ſcuttled and ſunk; but, inſtead of doing that, the Officer to whom that Duty was entruſted, blew them up, by which Two fine Gun Boats, which I had ordered to attend Sir Sydney Smith, were ſhook to Pieces. The Lieutenant commanding One of them was killed, and ſeveral Seamen badly wounded. I am ſorry to add, that Lieutenant Goddard, of the Victory, who commanded the Seamen upon the Heights of Graſſe, was wounded, but I hope and truſt not dangerouſly.

I beg to refer you for further Particulars to General Dundas reſpecting the Evacuation of Toulon, and to Sir Sydney Smith as to the burning the Enemy's Ships, &c. on which Service he very much diſtinguiſhed himſelf; and he gives great Praiſe to Captain Hare, of the Fireſhip, as well as to all the Lieutenants employed under him.

It is with very peculiar Satisfaction I have the Honor to acquaint you, that the utmoſt Harmony, and moſt cordial Underſtanding, has happily ſubſiſted in His Majeſty's Army and Fleet, not only between the Officers of all Ranks, but between the Seamen and Soldiers alſo.

I herewith tranſmit a Copy of Sir Sydney Smith's Letter to me, with a Liſt of the Officers employed under him, and alſo a Return of Officers and Seamen killed and wounded at Fort Mulgrave on the 17th.

I have the Honor, &c.

HOOD.

P. S. The Liſt of the Ships at Toulon that were burnt, and thoſe remaining, has been received ſince writing my Letter.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas.

Toulon, December 18, 1793.

MY LORD,

AGreeably to your Lordſhip's Order, I proceeded with the Swallow Tender, Three Engliſh and Three Spaniſh Gun-Boats, to the Arſenal, and immediately began making the neceſſary Preparations for burning the French Ships and Stores therein. We found the Dock-Gates well ſecured by the judicious Arrangements of the Governor, although the Dock-Yard People had already ſubſtituted the Three-coloured Cockade for the White one. I did not think it ſafe to attempt the Securing any of them, conſidering the ſmall Force I had with me, and conſidering that Conteſt of any Kind would occupy our whole Attention, and prevent us from accompliſhing our Purpoſe.

The Galley Slaves, to the Number of at leaſt 600, ſhewed themſelves jealous Spectators of our Operations: Their Diſpoſition to oppoſe us was evident; and being unchained, which was unuſual, rendered it neceſſary to keep a watchful Eye on them on Board the Galleys, by pointing the Guns of the Swallow Tender and One of the Gun-Boats on them, in ſuch a Manner as to enfilade the Quay on which they muſt have landed to come to us, aſſuring them, at the ſame Time, that no Harm ſhould happen to them if they remained quiet. The Enemy kept up a croſs Fire of Shot and Shells on the Spot from Malbouſquet, and the neighbouring Hills, which contributed to keep the Galley Slaves in Subjection, and operated, in every Reſpect, favourably for us, by keeping the Republican Party in the Town within their Houſes, while it occaſioned little Interruption to our Work of preparing and placing combuſtible Matter in the different Store-Houſes, and on Board the Ships; ſuch was the Steadineſs of the few brave Seamen I had under my Command. A great Multitude of the Enemy continued to draw down the Hill towards the Dock-Yard Wall, and as the Night cloſed in they came near enough to pour in an irregu-

gular though quick Fire of Muſquetry on us from the Boulangerie, and of Cannon from the Heights which overlook it. We kept them at bay by Diſcharges of Grape Shot from Time to Time, which prevented their coming ſo near as to diſcover the Inſufficiency of our Force to repel a cloſer Attack. A Gun-Boat was ſtationed to flank the Wall on the Outſide, and Two Field Pieces were placed within againſt the Wicket uſually frequented by the Workmen, of whom we were particularly apprehenſive. About Eight o'Clock I had the Satisfaction of ſeeing Lieutenant Gore towing in the Vulcan Fireſhip. Captain Hare, her Commander, placed her, agreeably to my Directionss, in a moſt maſterly Manner, acroſs the Tier of Men of War, and the additional Force of her Guns and Men diminiſhed my Apprehenſions of the Galley Slaves riſing on us, as their Manner and occaſional tumultuous Debates ceaſed entirely on her Appearance. The only Noiſe heard among them was the Hammer knocking off their Fetters, which Humanity forbade my oppoſing, as they might thereby be more at Liberty to ſave themſelves on the Conflagration taking Place around them. In this Situation we continued to wait moſt anxiouſly for the Hour concerted with the Governor for the Inflammation of the Trains. The Moment the Signal was made, we had the Satisfaction to ſee the Flames riſe in every Quarter. Lieutenant Tupper was charged with the Burning of the General Magazine, the Pitch, Tar, Tallow and Oil Store-Houſes, and ſucceeded moſt perfectly; the Hemp Magazine was included in this Blaze: Its being nearly calm was unfortunate to the Spreading of the Flames, but 250 Barrels of Tar divided among the Deals and other Timber, inſured the rapid Ignition of that whole Quarter which Lieutenant Tupper had undertaken.

The Maſt-Houſe was equally well ſet on Fire by Lieutenant Middleton, of the Britannia. Lieutenant Pater, of the Britannia, continued in a moſt daring Manner to brave the Flames, in order to complete the Work where the Fire ſeemed to have caught imperfectly. I was obliged to call him off, leſt his Retreat ſhould become impracticable: His Situation was the more perilous, as the Enemy's Fire redoubled as ſoon as the amazing Blaze of Light rendered us diſtinct Objects of their Aim. Lieutenant Ironmonger, of the Royals, remained with the Guard at the Gate till the laſt, long after the Spaniſh Guard was withdrawn, and was brought ſafely off by Captain Edge of the Alert, to whom I had confided the important Service of cloſing our Retreat, and bringing off our detached Parties, which were ſaved to a Man. I was ſorry to find myſelf deprived of the further Services of Captain Hare: He had performed that of placing his Fireſhip to Admiration, but was blown into the Water, and much ſcorched, by the Exploſion of her Priming, when in the Act of putting the Match to it. Lieutenant Gore was alſo much burnt, and I was conſequently deprived of him alſo, which I regretted the more, from the Recollection of his Bravery and Activity in the warm Service of Fort Mulgrave. Mr. Eales, Midſhipman, who was alſo with him on this Occaſion, deſerves my Praiſe for his Conduct throughout this Service. The Guns of the Fireſhip going off on both Sides as they heated, in the Direction that was given them, towards thoſe Quarters from whence we were moſt apprehenſive of the Enemy forcing their Way in upon us, checked their Career. Their Shouts and Republican Songs, which we could hear diſtinctly, continued till they, as well as ourſelves, were in a Manner thunderſtruck by the Exploſion of ſome Thouſand Barrels of Powder on Board the Iris Frigate, lying in the Inner Road, without us, and which had been injudiciouſly ſet on Fire by the Spaniſh Boats, in going off, inſtead of being ſunk, as ordered. The Concuſſion of Air, and the Shower of falling Timber on Fire, was ſuch as nearly to deſtroy the Whole of us. Lieutenant Patey, of the Terrible, with his whole Boat's Crew, nearly periſhed; the Boat was blown to Pieces, but the Men were picked up alive. The Union Gun-Boat, which was neareſt to the Iris, ſuffered conſiderably, Mr. Young being killed, with Three Men, and the Veſſel ſhaken to Pieces. I had given it in Charge to the Spaniſh Officers to fire the Ships in the Baſon before the Town, but they returned, and reported that various Obſtacles had prevented their entering it. We attempted it together, as ſoon as we had compleated the Buſineſs in the Arſenal, but were repulſed in our Attempt to cut the Boom, by repeated Vollies of Muſquetry from the Flag Ship and the Wall of the Battery Royale. The Cannon of this Battery had been ſpiked by the judicious Precaution taken by the Governor, previouſly to the Evacuation of the Town.

The Failure of our Attempt on the Ships in the Baſon before the Town, owing to the Inſufficiency of our Force, made me regret that the Spaniſh Gun-Boats had been withdrawn from me to perform other Service. The Adjutant Don Pedro Cotiella, Don Franciſco Riguelme, and Don Franciſco Truſello remained with me to the laſt; and I feel bound to bear Teſtimony of the Zeal and Activity with which they performed the moſt eſſential Services during the Whole of this Buſineſs, as far as the Inſufficiency of their Force allowed it, being reduced, by the Retreat of the Gun-Boats, to a ſingle Fellucca, and a Mortar-Boat which had expended its Ammunition, but contained 30 Men with Cutlaſſes.

We now proceeded to burn the Hero and Themiſtocles, Two Seventy-four Gun Ships, laying in the Inner Road. Our Approach to them had hitherto been impracticable in Boats, as the French Priſoners who had been left in the latter Ship were ſtill in Poſſeſſion of her, and had ſhewn a Determination to reſiſt our Attempt to come on Board. The Scene of Conflagration around them, heightened by the late tremendous Exploſion, had however awakened their Fears for their Lives. Thinking this to be the Caſe, I addreſſed them, expreſſing my Readineſs to land them in a Place of Safety, if they would ſubmit; and they thankfully accepted the Offer, ſhewing themſelves to be completely intimidated, and very grateful for our humane Intentions towards them, in not attempting to burn them with the Ship. It was neceſſary to proceed with Precaution, as they were more numerous than ourſelves. We at length completed their Diſembarkation, and then ſet her on Fire. On this Occaſion I had nearly loſt my valuable Friend and Aſſiſtant, Lieutenant Miller, of the Windſor-Caſtle, who had ſtaid ſo long on Board to inſure the Fire taking, that it gained on him ſuddenly, and it was not without being very much ſcorched, and the Riſk of being ſuffocated, that we could approach the Ship to take him in. The Loſs to the Service would have been very great, had we not ſucceeded in our Endeavours to ſave him. Mr. Knight, Midſhipman of the Windſor Caſtle, who was in the Boat with me, ſhewed much Activity and Addreſs on this Occaſion, as well as Firmneſs throughout the Day.

The

The Exploſion of a Second Powder Veſſel, equally unexpected, and with a Shock even greater than the firſt, again put us in the moſt imminent Danger of periſhing; and when it is conſidered that we were within the Sphere of the falling Timber, it is next to miraculous that no one Piece, of the many which made the Water foam round us, happened to touch either the Swallow or the Three Boats with me.

Having now ſet Fire to every Thing within our Reach, exhauſted our combuſtible Preparations and our Strength to ſuch a Degree that the Men abſolutely dropped on the Oars, we directed our Courſe to join the Fleet, running the Gauntlet under a few ill-directed Shot from the Forts of Balaguier and Aiguillette, now occupied by the Enemy; but fortunately, without Loſs of any Kind, we proceeded to the Place appointed for the Embarkation of the Troops, and took off as many as we could carry. It would be Injuſtice to theſe Officers whom I have omitted to name, for their not having been ſo immediately under my Eye, if I did not acknowledge myſelf indebted to them all for their extraordinary Exertions in the Execution of this great National Object. The Quickneſs with which the Inflammation took Effect, on my Signal, its Extent and Duration, are the beſt Evidances that every Officer and Man was ready at his Poſt, and firm under moſt perilous Circumſtances; I therefore ſubjoin a Liſt of the whole who were employed on this Service.

We can aſcertain that the Fire extended to at leaſt Ten Sail of the Line, how much further we cannot ſay. The Loſs of the General Magazine, and of the Quantity of Pitch, Tar, Roſin, Hemp, Timber, Cordage and Gunpowder, muſt conſiderably impede the Equipment of the few Ships that remain. I am ſorry to have been obliged to leave any, but I hope your Lordſhip will be ſatisfied that we did as much as our circumſcribed Means enabled us to do, in a limited Time, preſſed as we were by a Force ſo much ſuperior to us.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

W. SYDNEY SMITH.

Right Hon. Lord Hood, &c. &c. &c.

A Liſt of the Officers employed under the Orders of Sir Sydney Smith, Commander, Grand Croſs of the Royal Military Order of the Sword, in the Service of burning the French Ships and Arſenal of Toulon, in the Night of the 18th of December, 1793.

Captain Hare, Vulcan Fireſhip.
Captain Edge, Alert Sloop.
Don Pedro de Cotiella, Adjutant, and Don Franciſco Riguielme, Lieutenants, Spaniſh Navy.
Don Franciſco Truxillo, commanding a Mortar Boat.
Lieutenants C. Tupper, John Gore, Mr. Eales, Midſhipman, Victory's Boats.
Lieutenants Melhuiſh and Holloway, Alert Sloop.
Lieutenants Mathew Wrench and Thomas F. Richmond, Mr. Andrews, Maſter, Mr. Jones, Surgeon, and Mr. Mather, Gunner, Vulcan Fireſhip.
Lieutenants Ralph W. Miller and John Stiles, Mr. Richard Hawkins, Mr. Thomas Cowan, and Mr. William Knight, Windſor Caſtle's Boats.
Lieutenants Pater and Middleton, Mr. Matſon and Mr. Valliant, Midſhipmen, Britannia.
Lieutenant Hill, Swallow Tender.
Lieutenant Prieſt, Waſp Gun-Boat.
Lieutenant Morgan, Petite Victoire Gun-Boat.
Lieutenant Cox, Jean Bart Gun-Boat.
Mr. Young, Union Gun-Boat, killed.
Enſign Ironmonger, of the Royals.
John Skrimger, Boatſwain's Mate, James Young, Gunner's Mate, Thomas Knight, Quarter-Maſter, and Thomas Clarke, Carpenter's Mate, of the Swallow Tender, and who performed the Service of preparing Combuſtibles.
John Wilſon, Advanced Centinel.

An Abſtract of the Return of Officers and Seamen belonging to the Ships undermentioned, who were Killed, Wounded and Miſſing on the 17th Day of December, 1793, at Fort Mulgrave.

Victory. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Midſhipman, 2 Seamen, wounded; 8 Seamen miſſing.
Britannia. 8 Seamen killed.
Windſor Caſtle. 2 Seamen killed; 2 Seamen wounded; 2 Seamen miſſing.
Princeſs Royal. 1 Midſhipman, 8 Seamen, miſſing.
Lieutenant Goddard, of the Victory, wounded.
Mr. J. W. Loring, Midſhipman of the Victory, wounded.
Mr. A. Wilkie, Midſhipman of the Princeſs Royal, miſſing.

Liſt of Ships of the Line, Frigates and Sloops of the Department of Toulon.

In the Road where the Engliſh Fleet entered Toulon:

SHIPS of the LINE.

Now with the Engliſh Fleet.

Le Commerce de Marſeille			120 Guns.
Le Pompée	—	—	74

Burnt at Toulon.

Le Tonnant	—	—	80
L'Heureux	—	—	74
Le Centaur	—	—	74
Le Commerce de Bordeaux			74
Le Deſtin	—	—	74
Le Lys	—	—	74
Le Heros	—	—	74
Le Thémiſtocle	—		74
Le Dugay trouin	—		74

Sent into the French Ports on the Atlantic, with French Seamen, &c.

Le Patriote	—	—	74
L'Apollon	—	—	74
L'Orion	—	—	74
L'Entreprenant	—		74

Burnt at Leghorn.

Le Scipion	—	—	74

Remaining at Toulon.

Le Genereux	—	—	74

FRIGATES.

Now with the Engliſh Fleet.

Le Perle	—	—	40
L'Aretheuſe	—	—	40

Fitted out by the Engliſh.

L'Aurora	—	—	32

Put into Commiſſion, by Order of Lord Hood.

La Topaze — — 32 Guns.

Remaining in the Power of the Sardinians.

L'Alceſte — — 32

SLOOPS.

Now with the Engliſh Fleet.

La Poulette — — 26
Le Tarleſton — — 14

Burnt at Toulon.

La Caroline — — 20
L'Auguſte — — 20

Fitted out by the Engliſh.

La Bellette — — 26
La Proſelite — — 24
La Sincere — — 20
Le Mulet — — 20
La Mozelle — — 20

Fitted out by the Neapolitans.

L'Emproye — — 20

Fitted out by the Spaniards.

La Petite Aurore — 18

Sent to Bourdeaux.

Le Pluvier — — 20

Fitting out when the Engliſh Fleet entered Toulon:

SHIPS of the LINE.

Burnt at Toulon.

Le Triomphant — 80
Le Suffiſſant — — 74

Now with the Engliſh Fleet.

Le Puiſſant — — 74

Remaining at Toulon.

Le Dauphin Royal — 120

FRIGATE.

Burnt at Toulon.

La Serieuſe — — 32

In the Harbour, in Want of Repair:

SHIPS.

Burnt at Toulon.

Le Mercure — — 74
La Couronne — — 80
Le Conquerant — 74
Le Dictateur — — 74

Remaining at Toulon.

Le Languedoc — 80
Le Centeur — — 74
Le Guerrier — — 74
Le Souverain — — 74

Unfit for Service.

L'Alcide — — 74

FRIGATES.

Burnt at Toulon.

Le Courageux — 32
L'Iphigenie — — 32
L'Alerte — — 16

Having on Board the Powder Magazines, burnt at Toulon.

L'Iris — — 32
Le Montreal — — 32

Fitted out by the Engliſh as a Bomb-Ketch.

La Lutine — — 32

Remaining at Toulon.

La Bretonne — — 18

In Commiſſion before the Engliſh Fleet entered Toulon:

SHIP.

In the Levant.

La Duqueſne — 74

FRIGATES and SLOOPS.

In the Levant.

La Sibile — — 40
La Senſible — — 32
La Melpomene — 40
La Minerve — — 40
La Fortunée — — 32
La Flèche — — 24
La Fauvette — — 24

Taken by the Engliſh.

L'Imperieuſe — — 40
La Modeſte — — 32
L'Eclair — — 20

At Ville Franche.

La Veſtale — — 36
La Badine — — 24
——— Le Hazard — 30

At Corſica.

La Mignone — — 32

At Cette.

La Brune —* — 24

In Ordinary at Toulon.

La Junon — — 40

Building.

One Ship of — — 74
Two Frigates — 40

On Board the Victory, Hieres Bay, Dec. 21, 1793.

SIR,

IN my Letter of the 12th Inſtant I had the Honour to acquaint you, that from the 30th of November to that Time no particular Event had taken Place, and that the Fire of the Enemy was leſs frequent. During this Period they were daily receiving Reinforcements from every Quarter, and both Sides were buſily employed, we in ſtrengthening our Poſts, and the Enemy in eſtabliſhing new Batteries againſt Cape Brun and Malboufquet, but principally againſt Fort Mulgrave, on the Heights of Balaguier.

From all concurring Accounts of Deſerters, and others, the Enemy's Army was now between 30,000 and 40,000 Men, and an Attack upon our Poſts was to be daily expected. Theſe, from their eſſential though detached Situations, had been ſeverally ſtrengthened, in the Proportion their Circumſtances required, having ſuch central Force in the Town as was deemed neceſſary for it's immediate Guard, and for

for affording a Degree of Succour to any Point that might be more particularly attacked.

For the compleat Defence of the Town and it's extenſive Harbour, we had long been obliged to occupy a Circumference of at leaſt Fifteen Miles, by Eight principal Poſts, with their ſeveral intermediate dependent ones; the greateſt Part of theſe were merely of a temporary Nature, ſuch as our Means allowed us to conſtruct; and, of our Force, which never exceeded 12,900 Men bearing Firelocks, and compoſed of Five different Nations and Languages, near 9000 were placed in or ſupporting thoſe Poſts, and about 3000 remained in the Town.

On the 16th, at Half paſt Two o'Clock in the Morning, the Enemy, who had before fired from Three Batteries on Fort Mulgrave, now opened Two new ones, and continued a very heavy Cannonade and Bombardment on that Poſt till next Morning. The Works ſuffered much. The Number of Men killed and diſabled was conſiderable. The Weather was rainy, and the conſequent Fatigue great.

At Two o'Clock on the Morning of the 17th the Enemy, who had every Advantage in aſſembling and ſuddenly advancing, attacked the Fort in great Force. Although no Part of this temporary Poſt was ſuch as could well reſiſt determined Troops, yet, for a conſiderable Time, it was defended; but, on the Enemy entering on the Spaniſh Side, the Britiſh Quarter, commanded by Captain Conolly of the 18th Regiment, could not be much longer maintained, notwithſtanding ſeveral gallant Efforts were made for that Purpoſe. It was therefore, at laſt, carried, and the Remains of the Garriſon of 700 Men retired towards the Shore of Balaguier, under the Protection of the other Poſts eſtabliſhed on thoſe Heights, and which continued to be faintly attacked by the Enemy. As this Poſition of Balaguier was a moſt eſſential one for the Preſervation of the Harbour, and as we had no Communication with it but by Water, 2200 Men had been placed there for ſome Time paſt. On the Night preceding the Attack 300 more Men had been ſent over, and on the Morning of the 17th 400 were embarked ſtill farther to ſupport it.

When the Firing at Balaguier ceaſed, we remained in anxious Suſpence as to the Event till a little before Day-Light, when a new Scene opened, by an Attack on all our Poſts, on the Mountain of Pharon. The Enemy were repulſed on the Eaſt Side, where was our principal Force of about 700 Men, commanded by a moſt diſtinguiſhed Officer, the Piedmonteſe Colonel de Jermagnan, whoſe Loſs we deeply lament; but on the Back of the Mountain, near 1800 Feet high, ſteep, rocky, deemed almoſt inacceſſible, and which we had laboured much to make ſo, they found Means, once more, to penetrate between our Poſts, which occupied an Extent of above Two Miles, guarded by about 450 Men, and, in a very ſhort Space of Time, we ſaw, that with great Numbers of Men, they crowded all that Side of the Mountain which overlooks Toulon. The Particulars of this Event I am not yet enabled to aſcertain, but I have every Reaſon to think that they did not enter at a Britiſh Poſt.

Our Line of Defence, which, as I have mentioned, occupied a Circumference of at leaſt 15 Miles, and with Points of which we had only a Water Communication, being thus broken in upon, in it's Two moſt eſſential Poſts, it became neceſſary to adopt deciſive Meaſures, ariſing from the Knowledge of the Whole of our actual Situation. A Council of the Flag and General Officers aſſembled. They determined on the Impracticability of reſtoring the Poſts we had loſt, and on the conſequent Propriety of the ſpeedieſt Evacuation of the Town, evidently, and by the Report of the Engineers and Artillery Officers, declared untenable. Meaſures of Execution were taken from that Moment. The Troops were withdrawn from the Heights of Balaguier without much Interruption from the Enemy, and in the Evening ſuch Poſts as neceſſarily depended on the Poſſeſſion of Pharon were ſucceſſively evacuated, and the Troops drawn in towards Toulon. The Forts D'Artigues and St. Catherine ſtill remained, together with the Poſts of Sablettes, Cape Brun, and Malbouſquet, from which laſt the Spaniards withdrew in the Night, in conſequence of the ſupporting Poſt of Neapolitans, at Micheſſy, having left the Battery there eſtabliſhed, and abandoned it without Orders. Every Attention was alſo given to enſure the Tranquillity of the Town. In the Night the Combined Fleets took a new Station in the Outer Road.

Early in the Morning of the 18th the Sick and Wounded, and the Britiſh Field Artillery, were ſent off. In the Courſe of the Day the Poſt of Cape Brun was withdrawn into La Malgue, the Poſt of Sablettes was alſo retired, and the Men were put on Board. Meaſures were arranged for the final Embarkation, during the Night, of the Britiſh, Piedmonteſe and Spaniards, who occupied the Town, and of the Troops of the ſame Nations, who were now at La Malgue, amounting in all to about 7,000 Men, for the Neapolitans had, by Mid-Day, embarked.

Having determined with Lieutenant-General Gravina, commanding the Spaniſh Troops, that, inſtead of embarking at the Quays and in the Arſenal of the Town, our whole Force ſhould aſſemble near Fort La Malgue, and form on the Peninſula which from thence extends into the Harbour, every previous Diſpoſition was made, and every Care taken to conceal our Intention. The Arſenal and Dock-Yard were ſtrictly guarded. The Troops were ranged accordingly on the Ramparts, and the Tranquillity of the Town was much enſured from the Time the Enemy began to throw Shells and Shot into it; which they did from our late Batteries at Micheſſy and Malbouſquet.

About Ten o'Clock at Night Fire was ſet to the Ships and Arſenal. We immediately began our March, and the Evacuation of the Town, which it was neceſſary ſhould be made with Secrecy and Expedition. The Fort of St. Catherine having, without Orders, been quitted in the Courſe of the Day, and poſſeſſed by the Enemy. The conſequent early Knowledge of our March, had we taken the common Route, through the Gate of Italy, and within Muſquet Shot of that Fort, might have produced great Inconvenience; we therefore, by a Sally Poſt, gained an advanced Part of the Road, and without Accident were enabled to quit the Town, arrive at Fort La Malgue, and form on the riſing Ground immediately above the Shore. The Boats were ready, the Weather and the Sea in the higheſt Degree favourable: The Embarkation began about Eleven o'Clock, and by Day-Break on the 19th the Whole, without Interruption, or the Loſs of a Man, were on Board Ship.

The great Fire in the Arſenal, the blowing up of the Powder Ships, and other ſimilar Events which took Place in the Night, certainly tended to keep the Enemy in a State of Suſpenſe and Uncertainty.

As the Security of this Operation depended much on the Protection afforded from the happy Situation of Fort La Malgue, which ſo effectually commands the Neck of the Peninſula, and the judicious Uſe that

ſhould

ſhould be made of it's Artillery, this important Service was allotted to Major Koehler, with 200 Men, who, after ſeeing the laſt Man off the Shore, and ſpiking all the Guns, effected, from his Activity and Intelligence, his own Retreat without Loſs.

Captains Elphinſtone, Hollwell and Mathews ſuperintended the Embarkation, and to their indefatigable Attention and good Diſpoſitions we are indebted for the happy Succeſs of ſo important an Operation. Captain Elphinſtone, as Governor of Fort La Malgue, has ably afforded me the moſt eſſential Aſſiſtance, in his Command and Arrangement of the ſeveral important Poſts included in that Diſtrict.

It is impoſſible for me to expreſs, but in general Terms, the Approbation that is due to the Conduct and Merits of the ſeveral Commanding Officers, and indeed of every Officer, in every Rank and Situation. Troops have ſeldom experienced, for ſo long a Time, a Service more harraſſing, diſtreſſing and ſevere; and the Officers and Men of the Regiments and Marines have gone through it with that Exertion, Spirit and Good-Will, which peculiarly diſtinguiſh the Britiſh Soldier. At Fort Mulgrave, Lieutenant Duncan, ſen. of the Royal Artillery, was ſo eſſentially uſeful, that to his Exertions and Abilities that Poſt was much indebted for its Preſervation for ſo long a Time.

The general Service has been carried on with the moſt perfect Harmony and Zeal of the Navy and Army. From our Deficiency in Artillery-Men, many of our Batteries were worked by Seamen: They, in Part, guarded ſome of our Poſts, and their Aid was peculiarly uſeful in Duties of Fatigue and Labour. In all theſe we found the Influence of the ſuperior Activity and Exertions of the Britiſh Sailors.

It was the conſtant Attention of Lord Hood to relieve our Wants and alleviate our Difficulties.

The Sardinian Troops we have always conſidered as a Part of ourſelves. We have experienced their Attachment and good Behaviour, and I have found much Aſſiſtance from the Ability and Conduct of the Chevalier de Revel, and from Brigadier-General Richler, who commands them.

Notwithſtanding the undefined Situation of Command, I found every Diſpoſition and Acquieſcence in Lieutenant-General Gravina, commanding the Spaniſh Troops, to execute every propoſed Meaſure which the common Cauſe required.

The Loſs of the Britiſh on the 17th at Fort Mulgrave, and on the Heights of Pharon, amounts to about 300 Men, of which, during the laſt Four Days, no exact Account could be procured: And, as the Troops, in embarking, were put on Board the neareſt and moſt convenient Ships, till they are again united in Corps, I cannot have the Honor of tranſmitting particular Returns, nor even knowing the Detail of Circumſtances that attended the Attack of thoſe Poſts.

It is now about Three Weeks that, from the unfortunate Accident of General O'Hara being made Priſoner, the Government of Toulon devolved on me; my beſt Exertions have not been wanting in that Situation, and I humbly hope that His Majeſty may be pleaſed to look upon them in a favorable Light.

I beg Leave to add, that the Battalion of Royal Louis, and Two Independent Companies of French Chaſſeurs, raiſed at Toulon, have behaved, on every Occaſion, with Fidelity and Spirit. They embarked at La Malgue, to the Number of about 600 Men, and are now with us.

I have the Honor to be,
With the moſt profound Reſpect,
SIR,
Your moſt faithful and
obedient humble Servant,
DAVID DUNDAS,
Lieut. Gen.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.

SIR, *December 21, 1793.*

AFTER every Enquiry, the incloſed is the moſt diſtinct Report that can be obtained of the Loſs of the Britiſh Troops on the 17th of December; that of the other Troops in the ſame Poſts, who greatly exceeded them in Number, I do not know, but I have Reaſon to think was infinitely ſmaller in Proportion.

D. DUNDAS, Lieut. Gen.

Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.

Return of the Miſſing of the Britiſh Forces, on the Morning of the 17th of December, 1793.

Attack of Fort Mulgrave.

Royal Artificers. 3 Rank and File and Seamen.
Royal Artillery. 25 Rank and File and Seamen.
2d Battalion of Royals. 1 Serjeant, 1 Drummer, 18 Rank and File and Seamen.
18th or Royal Iriſh Regiment. 1 Enſign, 2 Rank and File and Seamen.
30th Regiment. 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 5 Serjeants, 3 Drummers, 140 Rank and File and Seamen.
Marines. 2 Lieutenants, 2 Serjeants, 2 Drummers, 56 Rank and File and Seamen.
Royal Navy. 1 Midſhipman, 28 Seamen.

Attack of the Heights of Pharon.

11th Regiment. 1 Lieutenant, 1 Serjeant, 15 Rank and File and Seamen.
18th or Royal Iriſh Regiment, 1 Serjeant, 5 Rank and File and Seamen.
Marines. 1 Lieutenant, 15 Rank and File and Seamen.

Officers Names miſſing.

11th Regiment. Lieutenant Knight.
18th or Royal Iriſh. Enſign Minchin.
30th Regiment. Captain De Vaumorel, Lieutenant Cuyler.
Marines. Lieutenants Williams, Barry, and Lynn.
Royal Navy. Mr. Alexander Wilkie, Midſhipman.

Officers Names wounded and preſent.

Royal Artillery. Lieutenant Duncan, ſen.
Royal Navy. Lieutenant Goddard, Mr. J. W. Loring, Midſhipman.

(Signed) THO. HISLOP, D. A. G.

The Fate of the above Officers and Men, returned miſſing, is not nor cannot be known; but, from all the Intelligence that can be gained, it is much to be apprehended that they fell before Day-Break, gallantly defending the Poſt they were entruſted with, when abandoned by other Troops.

D. DUNDAS, Lieut. Gen.

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